

Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

ing the punishment of the rod) to be flogged, 'in the way,' says our author significantly, 'that little children are chastised in Germany.' Notwithstanding this severity, however, our author observes that it would be a great error to imagine that the English schools are exempt from the disorders usually found in such establishments.

The foregoing is the amount of information contained in Dr Niemeyer's remarks on the English schools, and with it we must close our notice of his work. Without laying claim to the character of an indiscriminate observer, he is certainly entitled to that of a fair and candid one, and his work must be, by almost every class of readers, perused with satisfaction.

---

ART. XVI.—*Essays on Fevers, and other Medical Subjects, by Thomas Miner, M. D. and William Tully, M. D.* Middletown, Connecticut, 1823.

'Life is short, the art is long, occasion sudden, experiment dangerous, judgment difficult,' was the aphorism of the father of physic, which the experience of more than two thousand years has abundantly confirmed. The science of medicine, though among the most interesting to mankind, attracting, in all ages, the attention of all, and cultivated with nearly equal zeal by civilized and savage man, by the peasant and the philosopher, has advanced with a progress apparently little creditable to their united efforts, disappointing the benevolence of the philanthropist, and mortifying the pride of human nature. The pages of its history are too frequently the records of folly, superstition, and crime. There is scarcely a substance so virulent, disgusting, or insignificant, as never to have found a place in the materia medica, or a practice too horrid or absurd, to have been without an advocate among the countless multitude, who have been infected with the cacoethes medendi. The decrees of the empire and the thunders of Rome have been enlisted in defence of bleeding from a favorite vein; and the followers of Galen, in the enthusiasm of their wrath against innovation, did not hesitate to declare that they had rather be wrong with their master, than right with Paracelsus.

With so much of evil, however, some good is intermixed; and he who loves his brethren with all their vices and follies, and prefers to fix his eye on the bright side of human nature, is gratified to perceive, that the proportion of the good is much more considerable, than is at first apparent. If the profession of medicine has been disgraced by hot-headed zealots, compelling, by loud nonsense and arrogant dogmatism, that regard which is often refused to real merit, it has also given to the world a multitude of benefactors, whose services attract little attention, because they are met with every where and can be had at any time. If medical skill and learning were united in the character of Paracelsus with every vice, in those of Boerhaave, Cullen, Heberden, and Rush, they were accompanied with an unusual share of the virtues of humanity. If the doctrines have been often extravagant, their evil tendency has as often been counteracted by the plain sense and caution of actual practitioners. If too many of the articles of the materia medica are useless, they are also harmless. While the most violent and dangerous produce, in prudent hands, the most beneficial results, if they sometimes do harm in those hazardous cases, in which they are most likely to be employed, surely the restoration of health or preservation of life is well worth some of that risk, which we are every day wilfully incurring, for much less important considerations.

When we compare the actual state of medicine at different and distant periods, it is encouraging to perceive that its advancement however slow, is yet certain. Some of the harsh and dangerous medicaments of Hippocrates are now reserved for occasions of imminent hazard, whilst others are altogether superseded by articles, which possess all their good, without their evil qualities. Modern dexterity and knowledge of anatomy frequently accomplish, with little pain and trouble, what the ancients could only effect by torturing force. The frequent and periodical plagues of London are now only matters of history, and few in this country have ever seen more of the small-pox, than the indelible marks, which its ravages imprinted on the countenances of their parents.

This science has had its share in the good effects of that zeal for improvement and diffusion of knowledge, which has been so generally prevailing in Europe and America for the last half century. Its advancement, to be sure, is not to be

compared with that of its sister sciences. Its progress is still slow, and from the nature of the case, it always must be; but it has been so much accelerated by these circumstances, that it may be asserted without much hyperbole that it has been greater, during the last fifty years, than during the five preceding centuries. It must be admitted that physicians are not, yet, able in all cases, to supply an organ or a member which nature has denied, or accident destroyed—they cannot restore to the stomach, with a single miraculous pill, the tone which years of intemperance have impaired; they have no bark which can give to female delicacy of muscle, the 'vigour of the peasant's arm,' nor any preparation which can expand the chest, or extract the tubercles from the lungs, of hereditary consumption. In short they are unable, as yet, to satisfy many very reasonable expectations of their patients. But let them not despair of any thing, in an age which has seen the successful revival of the scheme of Taliacotius, and 'supplemental noses,' which are no longer fabulous.

These remarks have been suggested by the perusal of the work which is the subject of the present article, and of which we feel ourselves called upon, as the friends of truth and justice, as well as of the medical profession, to express our disapprobation. In this we are unconscious of being actuated by any prejudice or partiality. We have no medical system to support or overthrow. We are wedded neither to the lancet and hot water on the one hand, nor to opium and brandy toddy on the other. We believe in all, or either, in their proper times and places, and are ready to admit that there is a proper time and place for each. Moreover, we have no private grudge or malice against the authors of these essays. Of Dr Miner, we declare, even at the risk of arguing ourselves unknown, that we know nothing except his book, nor ever saw his name but on its pages. Of Dr Tully we have heard elsewhere, and always as a physician of skill and reputation. Neither shall we pretend to give any nice analysis of the particular mode of practice which they recommend, considering that as the province of works devoted more particularly to the subject of medicine. Our business is rather with the spirit and manner of the work, and those parts of it which relate to matters of which many of the community at large are competent judges—though we may now and then be tempted to

hazard an observation upon such more strictly professional passages, as seem to us remarkable.

We conceive, that the tendency of these Essays is in a high degree injurious, both to the members of the profession and to the community; to the profession, by depriving them of that public confidence which is essential to their success, their reputation, their very livelihood; to the community by giving them false ideas of the practice of physic, teaching them to regard with suspicion the best concerted means for their recovery or preservation from disease, and adding new and unnecessary terrors to some of the unavoidable calamities of life. Not that we fear, that such effects will really be produced, or at least extensively. The authors deal too much in assertion to be very convincing to that class of readers who are most likely to peruse their work. But the attempt is not the less reprehensible, because it may not happen to succeed. It is time, however, that Dr Miner should be permitted to speak for himself. The following extract is from the preface.

'It is of immense importance, that the present confusion of the practice of physic, in the treatment of acute febrile diseases should be known. The quantity of extraneous matter, with which it has been encumbered, during the last fifteen years, is immense. Some author is needed of so much independence of mind, that he is not *afraid* to hazard his popularity, by publishing a true statement of the most important facts.

'Should it be thought, that he has vindicated the cause of TRUTH and HUMANITY, with a degree of zeal and ardour, bordering on asperity, he has only to observe, that he can make no apology. When he finds it asserted, on the authority of the highest names, that the Bark is rarely serviceable in our fevers;—that blisters to the head are of no use in typhoid affections of the brain; that opium, in regular and repeated doses, during the stage of febrile exhaustion is inadmissible; that the mercurial action, when moderately excited during the *preparatory* stage, is of no other service, than as a test of the natural mildness of the disease; or that continued fevers are never cured by resolution, his charity is exhausted. He can attribute these assertions to no other sources, than ignorance, obstinacy, and, what is still worse, wilful misrepresentation.' p. vi.

Now we are the last persons to be sticklers for authority in medicine, or any other science. If a man is satisfied that he is right, whilst all the rest of the world are wrong, and

that in a concern of vital importance, we cannot blame his endeavors to enlighten his benighted contemporaries, provided they are made with modesty and decorum. Neither can Dr Miner reasonably blame us, if for want of that strong internal evidence of things, which seems sufficient for his own conviction, our *charity* for the rest of the profession should not be utterly *exhausted*. As to the correctness of the particular assertions, which have excited such indignation in the mind of our author, we offer no opinion. We leave these matters, as observed before, to medical men. But when we find the *highest names*, the names, as we afterwards learn, of Rush, Hamilton, Armstrong, Johnson, and others equally celebrated, accused of *ignorance*, *obstinacy*, and *wilful misrepresentation*, we are naturally led to inquire into the opportunities, which the accuser has enjoyed, of acquiring such superior information. And what are these?—A practice of a certain number of years, (he does not tell us how many, but probably not more than fifty,) in the city of Middletown; a city 'comprising a population of more than twenty-six hundred inhabitants,' in which Dr Tully 'cannot find, that, between the revolutionary war and the year 1820, there have been half a dozen adults sick, at one time of the same acute disease,' and 'the health of which, in general, has been greater than that of almost any place of its size on the continent.' This immense practice has been shared too with, at least one, if not more, competitors. But then there was, in 1816, an epidemic of *a dozen cases* of spotted-fever, and another, in 1820, of 'fifteen decided cases of yellow-fever, besides three, or four, which there was good reason to suppose were broken up in the forming stage.'

'With these exceptions, (the cases, to wit., of those patients, whose constitutions have been undermined, or much impaired by previous sickness, age, or intemperance, and a few malignant ones in severe epidemics,) the writer is free to acknowledge, that he never saw a *regular* case of fever, either run its course, or prove fatal, that might not be fairly attributed to obvious neglect or mismanagement on the part of the patient, or nurses, or physicians.' p. viii.

These extracts from the preface, will, in some measure, prepare our readers for an account of the work itself. It contains fifteen essays by Dr Miner and four by Dr Tully, on

matters relating to fevers. Our limits will not permit us to attempt a separate analysis of each, nor is it necessary, since to use the words of our authors; 'It is presumed that on close examination it will be uniformly perceived that the subject' (in all the essays) 'is only placed in a different point of light.'

We shall content ourselves with noticing a few of the most prominent opinions. A leading one is that 'slow and moderate purging with calomel in the first stages, and the regular administration of opium, alcohol, and bark in the last, is the only proper *methodus medendi* in typhoid fevers,' and that the plan of thus subduing them in their early stage by calomel is entirely original with Dr Miner.

That the above method is a very good one in many cases of typhoid fevers, we allow; but, that it is the only one admissible in any, we doubt, because we find very eminent physicians sometimes recommending a different one. This disagreement of doctors may be accounted for, without supposing *ignorance* or *wilful misrepresentation* on either side, if the general term, typhoid fever, includes diseases which, agreeing in some general characteristics, are yet sufficiently different to require considerable variation in the mode of treatment, which we have sometimes suspected to be the real state of the case. Neither is the originality of the plan so obvious to those of us, who are not so well skilled, in the minute shades of difference between the practice of different authors. It seems to us that Dr Hamilton recommends purging, and that sufficiently slow and moderate, and also that he uses sometimes calomel and sometimes other medicines for the purpose. Armstrong and Johnson give calomel combined with opium, as well as our author. Chisholm and Warren long ago taught to use calomel and opium till the mouth was affected. In fact, there is hardly a modern author, of our acquaintance, who does not recommend these articles, in some form or other, as a part of the treatment of fevers, whether typhoid or not, or a physician, who does not use them. But it is clear, that they do not use them, in the same manner, as Dr Miner, or else they have different forms of disease to deal with; for, in what other way, can the Doctor's extraordinary success—in all cases but bad ones—be accounted for.

A peculiar excellence of our author's plan is, that, *in proper hands*, for that is very material, and with a little variation,

it will cure *typhus mitior*, as well as *gravior*, putrid sore-throat and lung-fever, measles, dysentery, rheumatism, every low acute febrile disease, marasmus, croup, yellow-fever and dropsy in the head, and we doubt not, that if there is any other disease, which the Doctor forgot to mention, it will cure that also. Another notion much insisted on, in these essays, is that all the diseases in Connecticut, and probably in the United States, for the last fifteen years, have the asthenic diathesis. We have not the clearest ideas of the proper evidences of *sthenia*, or *asthenia*, in any particular case. Perhaps all cases that require Dr Miner's plan of cure are asthenic; on this supposition, this doctrine of the change of diathesis may be an example of the manner of 'placing the subject in a different point of light.'

The indignation of Doctor Miner, like that of Luke Lundin, is particularly excited by 'those cursed old women, who take currently and impudently upon themselves to act as advisers and curers of the sick, and interfere with, disturb, and let, the regular progress of a learned and artificial cure.' He states that, 'in the whole course of his practice in typhus, of all who have applied within the first forty-eight hours, after the *obvious access* of the disease,—he is *pretty confident* that not one has proved fatal, in which the patient had not previously been tampering with emetics and cathartics.' p. 31.

For this grievance we can offer the Doctor nothing but compassion, fearing that any attempt to remedy it will always prove ineffectual. Most people will admit that it would be a great deal better—for the faculty—if mankind would never take any measure, respecting their health, without applying to the regular sources for advice. It must also be granted by all, but those abominable infidels whom we put out of the question, that many would thus escape severe diseases and premature death. But we are a self-willed and short-sighted race, and nothing but adversity will whip us into wisdom. Some of us are delayed by an habitual tendency to procrastination. Others by the absurd proverb, which inculcates the 'danger of dealing with the Doctor.' Others again are deterred by a narrow-minded consideration of the *honorarium*, which the vulgar call a *bill*. In short, from one cause or another, we often neglect the opportunities, which are always open to us, of avoiding a large proportion of the ills that flesh

is heir to. As it sometimes happens, and, we should imagine, not unfrequently in a city so salubrious as Middletown, that men escape, notwithstanding such unjustifiable imprudence, with very slight indispositions, they acquire such hardihood by impunity, that, nothing, short of yellow-fever, will recall many of them to a proper sense of the duty they owe to themselves and their friends, of consulting the faculty, on all possible occasions. Nothing but this will place before their eyes, in its true colors, the impropriety of allowing their wives, mothers, and nurses to flatter them with herb teas, or practice upon them out of Buchan, or Townsend, or the still greater enormity of recommending to others, what they honestly, but ignorantly, believe to have been beneficial to themselves. The world will be much altered, when its inhabitants neither give nor take advice without due consideration. Nor can either Dr Miner, or we, ever hope to see the time, when men will not sometimes act as their own tailors, their own cooks, and their own physicians, at the risk of bad clothes, bad dinners, or bad health. We could even, if necessary, offer some arguments in defence of occasional practices of this sort, and that without implying any disparagement to the brethren of the thimble, the ladle, or the lancet, or their several arts, all of which we respect and honor. But we reserve the result of our researches into this matter for some future opportunity, and proceed to the consideration of the doctrine, in Dr Miner's second essay, that medical authors are rarely practical men; that they represent diseases, as much milder than they really are; (and if they do, heaven keep us from the reality, when the descriptions of diseases, in any medical book, are enough to make a common man's hair stand on end;) that their practice is frequently (that is, we suppose, when, by any accident, they happen to be practical men) very different from their instructions; and that their personal experience can teach them little of the real difficulties of medicine, because that experience is confined to hospitals. As if there was any difference between the practice of physic in a hospital, and a private chamber, except that, in the former, the most formidable cases are always admitted in preference to milder ones; that the patients, the nurses, and the medicines, being all more completely under the control of the physician, it is proportionally easier for him to carry into effect his remedial processes, and of course to form

a more certain judgment of their real merit; that a man can often see, in the fever-wards of a large hospital, more cases of that disease, to speak within bounds, in one year, than the mere family practitioner can see in twenty; that he can, in such a situation, spend a life, in studying the phenomena of a single species of disease, instead of being distracted by an endless variety of maladies; and lastly, that, as every step of his progress is liable to be watched and criticised by a crowd of students and medical men, he is deprived of those facilities of concealing his real processes, or skreening his mistakes, which are so abundantly afforded by private practice. In plain terms, our author, in this essay, accuses such writers as Sydenham, Cullen, Rush, Hey, Armstrong, Hamilton, Clutterbuck, and Johnson, either directly, or by very obvious implication, of gross deception; and roundly asserts, that they were deterred from attacking the popular opinions of their day, by a mercenary regard to the general circulation of their works. We trust that such charges need no other attempt at confutation, than the simple statement of them. After perusing this essay, however, we feel ourselves bound to acquit the writer himself of any suspicion of this supposed besetting sin of medical authors, an undue regard for public opinion, when we find him deciding *ex cathedra*, that Fordyce, after a practice of twenty years, in a hospital containing an average of nearly four thousand patients, was yet unable to distinguish the paroxysms of a dangerous fever, from hysteric fits; that Dr William Hunter, 'with all his learning, must in acute diseases, have been but an indifferent practitioner;' and declaring in a grave scientific work, his belief in the truth of the shocking jest, 'that a medical diploma is sufficient to suspend, through a whole kingdom, the penalties annexed to a violation of the sixth commandment.'

In the eighth essay, entitled EXPERIENCE, we are told 'that a prominent cause of the deterioration of medicine, in the United States, is the combination of the two professions, physic and surgery.' The principal argument in support of this position is, that a greater number of the symptoms of surgical diseases being objects of sense, these diseases admit of greater certainty of judgment and practice, than those which are more strictly medical. The surgeon, therefore, will acquire a habit of deciding hastily in obscure disorders, and

without taking into view all the facts relating to the case. Now it seems to us, that if a surgeon brings to a medical case nothing but his knowledge of surgery, he cannot but perceive it to be unlike those with which he is accustomed to deal; and, if an honest man, he will endeavor, by studying the symptoms, reading, consulting his friends in the profession, in short, by every means in his power, to ascertain its nature and the proper method of treatment. The more medical diseases he meets with, the better he will be convinced of the difficulty of understanding and properly managing them; that is, he will consider medicine, in the same light, in which it has been regarded by all its judicious professors, from the time of Hippocrates, who, *en passant*, was both physician and surgeon, to the present day, as a science of great difficulty, and not to be practised without care and deliberation. Another argument is, that 'the profession of surgery has, time immemorial, been second in rank to that of medicine.' The implied inference from this, is that they cannot be placed on a level, except at the expense of the latter. This, however, is the fable of the Lion and Man, especially when we recollect the language sometimes made use of by the distinguished surgeons of Europe, in relation to this subject. Other arguments are drawn from the difference, between the alleged dashing and desultory manner of surgical, and the slow and steady plan of medical practice, which it would be out of our prescribed limits to discuss. It seems to us, that all this reasoning is of little weight at the present day; that it can apply only to the surgeons of another age; the barber bleeders, itinerant lithotomists and cancer cutters; the chirurgeons, or workers with the hand; in short, to those mere mechanical operators, of which the race is almost extinct, as far as we know, in civilized Europe and America. Surgery is now a noble science, which, for the last half century, has given employment to some of the most philosophical minds; the full sister, if we may so speak, of medicine. The distinction between them, is, in fact, an artificial one, a species of division of labor, which can only be carried into complete effect amid the dense population of European cities. The innumerable necessities of the millions of London, can only be satisfied by dividing the duty amongst a host. Physician and surgeon are but the names of grand divisions, the classes and orders of the healing tribe. The ear,

the eye, the teeth, the stomach, every organ of the human frame, finds there an appropriate guardian. The occasional deformities even of the inorganic tipping of its extremities afford a name and a support to the humble art of the chiropodist. One man presides over the birth of the mewling infant, another conducts it safe through the perils of the cradle, and a third watches its advancing childhood; the accidents of youth employ a fourth, a fifth encounters the graver maladies of manhood, a sixth ministers to the peevishness of the lean and slippered pantaloon, whilst the seventh goes through the decent ceremonies of the last scene of all, and pays his cold and formal duties to unconscious imbecility. Multitudes are thus enabled to devote their lives to the observation of a single variety of disease, and the results of their eager competition and immense experience, the wisdom derived alike from their failures and success, is transmitted to us in 'bales and hogsheads.' But, even in Europe, the mere medical man is comparatively rare. The physician and accoucheur of the village is also its surgeon. The diseases incident to the fleets, the armies, and the colonial establishments of Britain, are managed by surgeons. One of the greatest improvers of physiological science, (upon which alone any rational medical theories can be founded,) whom the world has known, was John Hunter, a surgeon. Finally, whatever may be the efficiency of the cause in certain circumstances, we are unprepared to admit the reality of the effect, alleged by our author,—a deterioration of the practice of medicine in the United States.

We cannot leave this essay, without noticing the very logical inference, that, since our author has never failed in more than *one* instance, to cure consumption, when a fair opportunity has presented itself, the great mortality from that disease, in some of our large cities, must be owing to the mal-practice of physicians. When we consider this remarkable success, and reflect that the remedies recommended by him have been so powerless in other hands, we cannot but suspect that there is something more in all this, than meets the eye. We should be sorry to suspect so frank a person as Dr Miner, of any underhand proceedings; but unless he has obtained the secret of the Balm of Gilead, or something of that sort, we cannot tell what to think of it.

The ninth essay, on the varieties of the pulse, would have

done honor to the acuteness of Solano, or Nihell. Among the different kinds of arterial vibration enumerated by our author, we were particularly struck with the designations of three, the *gaseous*, the *suffocated*, and the *shattered*. Those physicians, whose sensibility of finger is not sufficiently erudite to perceive some of these nicer modifications—and who must, therefore, fall under the same condemnation with Dr William Hunter, that of being 'but indifferent practitioners in acute diseases,' will perhaps find consolation from the following opinion of the amiable and experienced Heberden, 'all who begin the study of physic, must find in the doctrine of the pulse, as collected from medical writers, a great deal which they do not understand; and all, I imagine, who have advanced a little in the practice of physic, can have very little doubt of its not being understood by the authors themselves.'

We looked into the twelfth essay, in which the author 'hopes that nearly all the rubbish, under which the subject of crisis has been so long buried, has been removed,' with some curiosity. We find it there asserted, that fevers certainly have critical days. But as a host of authors, with Asclepiades and Celsus at their head, have asserted the direct contrary, and, moreover, presumed to ridicule the notion, as without any other foundation, than the Pythagorean doctrine of the power of numbers, and as the case seems to admit of the evidence of experience alone, we imagine that the fevers of Middletown are more strongly marked, in that particular, than many others.

In the second, or Dr Tully's part of the work, our limits will only permit us to analyze the account of the cases of yellow-fever, which occurred in Chatham in 1796, and those before alluded to, which occurred in Middletown, in 1820. Every fact relating to the question of the supposed contagious nature of yellow-fever, is at once so interesting and important to the community, that we trust our readers will excuse the length of the extract which we shall make, in relation to this subject. The history of the yellow-fever in Chatham, after premising that the town 'is remarkable for its salubrity, and exemption from endemic and epidemic diseases,' is as follows.

'In the month of August, 1796, during the prevalence of the usual general health in the village and adjacent country, when neither simple fevers, dysenteries, nor choleras, had any existence in that quarter, and when there was nothing peculiar in the

weather, unless perhaps it might have been considered as rather warmer and dryer than usual, the brig Polly, Russel Doan master, owned by Bulkley and Doan, arrived from Cape St Nicholas Mole. Her outward cargo consisted of oats and other grain, which was sold for cash; so that she returned merely in ballast, and in as cleanly a state, as such vessels usually are, after a voyage. On her homeward passage, Mayhew Tupper, one of her crew, died on board with yellow-fever. The clothes, which he wore while sick, were thrown overboard, though a sail, upon which he lay when he died, was retained. The vessel afterwards underwent a sailor's washing, which, in this instance, consisted in scrubbing with cold sea-water, and the subsequent application of vinegar.

'On the arrival of the brig at this landing, Newell Hurd, a young man of about eighteen years of age, and John Ranney, were employed to assist in clearing her out. They were known to handle the sail on which Tupper died. At the same time Sarah Exton, wife of one of the crew, and Elizabeth Cook, who lived in the same house, were employed in washing some of the sailors' clothes. A few days afterwards, these four persons were attacked with yellow-fever. In about five days, viz. on the 29th of August, Hurd died, and within twelve hours, Ranney and Sarah Exton. The alarm in the village was already so great, that Sarah Exton was left alone in the night, and was found dead in the morning, with her infant child at the breast. Elizabeth Cook was soon added to the number of victims; and in quick succession, the infant child of Sarah Exton, together with Lucinda Norton, a tailoress, and member of the same family, who had been employed in mending some of the sailors' clothes, and Elizabeth and Rebecca Carey, daughters of Elizabeth Cook, who were immediately taken sick, and survived but a few days. The whole of these cases commenced and terminated within the space of a fortnight. Sometime during their existence, Gershom Lord, who acted in the capacity of clerk to one of the owners of the vessel, who had been on board of her, but had had no intercourse with the sick on shore, was taken with the same disease, and after a short but a severe illness, recovered. Beside this there were two or three other imaginary, or at most light cases, among those who had intercourse with the vessel, which soon recovered. Sometime while the brig was lying at this landing, but whether during the existence of any of the other cases, or subsequently, I have not ascertained, two young men, passing along the river in a boat, in the night, hauled along side the brig, and slept till morning in her cabin. Soon after they reached their father's house, both sickened with yellow-fever, and one died, but the other recovered.' pp. 359—361.

Accounts of this kind are always to be regarded in the light of depositions, and inferior, as evidence, to the oral testimony of persons who may be subjected to cross examination; since the deponents, however honest and impartial, may often omit circumstances, which, in their view of the subject, are of little consequence, while in another, they are highly essential. We do not mean to dispute about names, or deny, that the informants of Dr Tully, for we have this account at second-hand, were competent judges of the real nature of these cases, or that they were truly instances of yellow-fever. We are also willing to admit that they all originated from the vessel in question. But we deny the certainty of their having been imported, in the technical sense, which the word seems to have acquired in relation to this disease. Our opinion is that putrefying vegetable matters will frequently cause yellow-fever in hot and dry weather, whether they be in the hold of a ship, or the cellar of a house, in a dock, a kennel, or a marsh. We suppose, and we have a right to suppose, though we have no opportunity of asking the question, that a vessel, which had carried a cargo of grain, whether in bulk, or not, to a climate within the tropics, in the month of July or August, did contain and did bring home a very considerable quantity of such noxious matter among, or beneath her ballast, and was yet in as cleanly a state, as such vessels usually are after a voyage; and we have no doubt, that the informants of our author would have found this to be the case, if their attention had not been so much attracted by the 'sail, on which Tupper died.' Of the eleven cases, five are stated to have exposed themselves to the deleterious effects of this miasma, by going on board the Polly, whilst it is nowhere mentioned that the other six did not. On the contrary the following reasons afford a strong probability, that they did. First, that a vessel newly arrived from sea, is always, in a small village, an object of curiosity and interest to the inhabitants, especially the lower classes, and those who reside about the landing-place. Secondly, we are told, in the next essay, that the people of Middletown 'were more or less in the custom of visiting vessels from the West-Indies, for the purpose of obtaining fruit, &c. &c.' And we presume the people of Chatham had the same custom, since nothing could be more natural. Lastly, these six persons were among the most likely of all to follow this practice,

being the relations or intimates of the crew, or those employed about the vessel, apparently tenants of one house, and the most probable party in the world to take a walk on board the brig after tea in a warm summer evening, and enjoy the air of the river. There is nothing strange in all this, nor in their dying soon after of yellow-fever. The thing is unhappily too common in many of our seaports. No violent suppositions are necessary to reconcile this account with our opinion of the non-contagiousness of this fever. The conclusion to be drawn from it seems to us too obvious to be mistaken, viz. that no more persons from the shore, than are absolutely necessary should be permitted to go on board vessels in such circumstances, till they have been thoroughly cleaned and ventilated, and that every person already there, who can be spared from this hazardous duty, should be not only permitted, but exhorted, and, if necessary, compelled to seek safety by flight to a less noxious vicinity. We would direct the attention of the reader to one other circumstance only in this account and the succeeding part of the essay, we mean the inhuman desertion of the sick, which will always take place, to a greater or less degree, wherever the doctrine of contagion is the popular belief.

Of the fifteen cases detailed in the account of the fever in Middletown in 1820, the two first appear to have arisen from circumstances, not common to the remaining ones. We shall abridge the account of them thus. Fargo, a common sailor, came from Savannah, at or about the time, when yellow-fever prevailed there. He arrived at New-York, the 25th of May, and in the evening of the 27th was first taken ill, 'in consequence, as he supposed, of some over-exertion in unloading his vessel.' He was well enough on the 30th to sail, in the schooner Antelope, for Middletown, where he arrived, the 3d of June. He was found at that time to be affected with yellow-fever, and died on the eleventh, eight days after. Capt. Vail, of the schooner Antelope, in the latter part of May went to New York, where he remained with his vessel, in all about a fortnight, chiefly at Burling-slip, though she was hauled one day to Coenties'-slip. 'On being asked whether any vessels from foreign ports lay in his vicinity, he at first, thought there was none; but on farther consideration, he recollected one from the West-Indies, with considerable fruit on board, where he

thought Fargo had been.' Capt. Vail returned to Middletown with Fargo, as stated above. While on his passage he began to be ill, and was seen, immediately after his arrival, by Dr Tully, who considered his disease to be yellow-fever. The case is stated to have been mild; he began to recover after fourteen days. The Antelope appears to have been a perfectly clean vessel. Several other persons came from New-York in her at the same time, who were not affected with the fever.

We conceive that these cases may he explained, without supposing Fargo to have brought the disease from Savannah and communicated it to Capt. Vail. Indeed we are not sure that this is the opinion of Dr Tully. He leaves it unsettled whether it was originated in this way, or by the vessel from the West-Indies. We believe that the fatigue of loading, unloading, and hauling vessels in hot weather from one wharf to another of a city where we have good reason to think domestic causes of yellow-fever frequently exist, (and there are few large ports in the Union, in our opinion, without them,) will occasionally produce that disease.

Of the remaining thirteen, three were ascertained to have been on board the brig Sea-Island, from St Jago de Cuba, which is described as being 'in an extremely foul and offensive state, from a quantity of putrid corn and other decomposing matters behind her ceiling.' It is not certain that the others had been, but very probable, for reasons similar to those alleged above in considering the cases at Chatham. All the persons were, from their acquaintance with the crew, local situation, and other circumstances, very likely to do so; and it is observed, that while the Sea-Island lay at Middletown, there was the freest communication between her and the shore. It is further stated, that after the fever became alarming, there was an opposition, on the part of many of the inhabitants, to any investigation of the fact of individual communication, so violent as to account for the difficulty of proving with respect to most of the cases, what was in itself sufficiently probable. We shall not enter into any analysis of the particular cases. Doubts might be suggested, whether *all* these were really yellow-fever. But we abstain from criticism of that sort, since the opinion of a reputable physician, on the spot and acquainted with the appearance of that disease, is evidence which it would be arrogance to distrust, on the sole ground that his ac-

count of it may not happen to agree entirely with our notions. We are well aware that fevers intrinsically of the same character and of course to be included under the same general denomination and requiring similar modes of treatment, may yet vary very considerably in the course, the degree, and the nature of some of their symptoms. A matter of fact, which we would recommend to the consideration of committees of health, especially those, if such there be, who think themselves warranted to vote down the existence of a disease, because it was not originated according to rule.

We have treated parts of this work, with something like levity, but we desire in conclusion to address the authors, and more particularly Dr Miner, in the language of grave expostulation. We particularize Dr Miner, since our greatest objection to Dr Tully, is, that he has authorized by his association in this work, what, we believe, he would never have written. We desire them to reconsider such passages, as the following:

'It has been calculated, that within a hundred years from Sydenham, the indiscriminate use of the lancet, and the antiplogistic regimen, so highly recommended by him, was the cause of more premature deaths, than all the wars that ravaged Europe, during that period.' p. 13.

Who ever did, who ever could make such a calculation? The very attempt would be alike impious and preposterous. Yet this monstrous hyperbole is set down without any qualification, among the axiomatic sentences, which commence the work, and is followed, in the very next sentence, by a similar charge against the practice now followed 'by the greater proportion of practitioners.' We ask these authors, what would be their indignation, if their medical brethren should hurl back, with equally justifiable virulence, the charges of ignorance, obstinacy, skepticism, felony, and murder, with which they are repeatedly assailed in these essays? What will be their own remorse, if increasing years and experience should change their opinions? And has the history of medicine, and the biography of eminent physicians, persuaded them that such change is impossible? No men seem better aware of the uncertainty of medical science and the proverbial variance of its theories. Can they draw from this knowledge no lesson of modesty or charity? One would suppose, from some of the language of these essays, that the physicians of the present day, except

those few, who, as our author expresses it, 'have not bowed the knee to Baal,' were a combination of ignorant blunderers and unprincipled hypocrites, whose god was mammon, whose very 'cures are escapes,' and by whom 'hecatombs are annually sacrificed;' and that 'the practice of physic is the last profession, that an honest man would wish to engage in.' But will the world believe this of those, whose privileged feet must enter the sacred *penetralia* of domestic life; who must continually become the confidants of their follies and their faults, and on whose skill and integrity they must so often rest the preservation of their health, their honor, or their lives. And can no honest man wish to engage in a profession, which is forever holding up to view, the policy of benevolence and sympathy, of tenderness for the health and happiness of his fellow-creatures, and charity for their weaknesses,—which connects his daily avocations in the strongest manner with the exercise of the social feelings, and enforces the duties of morality by the powerful sanction of immediate interest? Will men, we repeat, believe these accusations? And if they will not, need we intimate to the accusers, what will be believed of them. Our authors inform us, that they found it expedient to omit several essays in this volume, which they hope soon to publish in another. But, if these are of a similar character to those before us, we entreat them for the credit of the profession, of their country, and of human nature, to refrain from their publication.

---

ART. XVII.—*The Principles of the Holy Alliance; Or Notes and Manifestoes of the Allied Powers.* London, 1823.

These papers are well calculated to excite reflection in the mind of every liberal statesman and national jurist. They afford the strongest indications, that have yet been given, of a settled determination on the part of the allied monarchs, to preserve by force the ancient system of government, from any reformation; unless proceeding from a quarter, where, hitherto, every thing savoring of an innovating spirit has been carefully repressed, and where all reformers must necessarily meet with